

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 /160 W

----- 127263

R 151030Z JUL 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 456

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: REVISION OF INTERIM CONSTITUTION

1. PRESS JUL 14 PUBLISHED TEXT OF RCC DECREE OF JUL 8 WHICH AMENDS INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF JUL 19, 1970. ALTHOUGH PRESS PLAYED UP AMENDMENTS AS RE-ENFORCEMENT OF PRES AL-BAKR'S AUTHORITY, NET RESULT SEEMS TO BE SLIGHT DIMINUTION OF AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENCY. FOR EXAMPLE, PRES RECEIVED NO NEW POWERS AND SOME HE FORMERLY EXERCISED UNDER ARTICLE 57 ARE NOW TO BE EXERCISED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THESE INCLUDE POWER TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCY, TO PREPARE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLAN, AND TO SUPERVISE ALL PUBLIC SERVICES.

2. OTHER PRINCIPAL AMENDMENTS INSTITUTIONALIZE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CREATE HIGH FINANCIAL CONTROL BODY RESPONSIBLE TO RCC.

3. COMMENT: IN PRACTICE, RCC SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE
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EXERCISING REAL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWER. NEVERTHELESS,

AMENDMENTS REPRESENT MODEST FIRST STEP IN "DEMOCRATIZATION" AND "PARTICIPATION" PROGRAM APPROVED BY PARTY LEADERSHIP ON JUL 7 WHICH CALLED FOR REGIONAL PARTY ELECTIONS WITHIN 4 MONTHS; NATIONAL PARTY ELECTIONS WITHIN 6 MONTHS; AND CONVENING OF 8TH REGIONAL PARTY CONVERENCE TO ELECT AN ENLARGED REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM WHICH WILL COME A POLITBURO. GREATER AUTHORITY FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND EARLY REALIZATION OF NATIONAL FRONT ARE ALSO CONSIDERED PART OF THIS PROCESS. IN MEETING WITH THREE WESTERN JOURNALISTS ON JUL 11 (SEPTTEL) SADDAM HUSSEIN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS DIRECTION PARTY WOULD NOW BE GOING AS CONSEQUENCE RECENT PLOT. KURDISH AT-TAAXHI OF JUL 15 HAILED AMENDMENTS AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL POWERS IN EXECUTIVE BRANCH SINCE THEY GIVE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SOME AUTHORITY. THERE APPEARS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT CREATION OF NATIONAL FRONT WILL BE ANNOUNCED JUL 17.

LOWRIE

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